



NEWS RELEASE

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SMALL BUSINESS LENDING ON THE RISE LOCALLY

SANTA ANA, CALIF – The number of local small businesses receiving loans backed by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), through the first two quarters of FY 2006 (October 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006), is up nearly 12% compared to the same period a year ago. The Santa Ana District Office of SBA serves Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Significant increases were seen in loans to minorities, women and veterans, and it was particularly noteworthy that Certified Development Company (CDC) 504 loans increased by 31%.

The overall increase in loan approvals under the agency's two major loan programs, the 7(a) General Business Loan Guaranty program and the CDC 504 Loan program, reflected an increase from 1278 loans during the first two quarters of FY 2005 to 1428 loans during the same period in the current fiscal year.

The growth in the number of loans to minorities, women and veterans was pronounced. Overall, loans to small businesses owned by minorities increased by 34%, from 484 through March 2005 to 647 through March 2006. Loan approvals for women-owned small businesses increased by 24% to 288 loans, and loans to veteran-owned small businesses were up by 19% to 82 loans.

The total dollar amount approved under the two programs during the first half of FY 2006 was up by 26% to \$490,306,562 compared to \$388,753,588 for the same period in FY 2005.

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